## Initiative 2023-24 #2: Majority Vote Requirement for Elections to Office

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Natalie Mullis, Director Colorado Legislative Council Staff Room 029 State Capitol Building Denver, Colorado 80203 Phone: 303-866-3521

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Dear Ms. Mullis:

We submit the enclosed initiative for review and comment by your office. We hope that our initiative, The Real Majority Act, can be brought to the voters in the 2024 general election.

The Real Majority Act is a single subject bill to ensure that voters meet the same basic standard of participation that they demand of other decision makers – a majority must participate to make a decision. The act accomplishes the goal by requiring offices to remain vacant if a majority of eligible electors choose not to vote and by giving Coloradans an explicit option to abstain if they choose through a "None of These Candidates" box on the ballot.

The two people representing the proponents in all matters are:

Peter M. Bergman Heather J. Link-Bergman 328 S Lincoln St Denver, CO 80209

You may also reach us by phone at (720) 673-2783 and by email at miles@sociometry.com and heatherlinkbergman@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from your office to schedule the Review and Comment Meeting.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Bergman

Heather J. Link-Bergman

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### **SECTION 1. Real Majority Act - Purpose, Effective Date**

- 1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS INITIATIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF COLORADO'S VOTERS HAVE A VOICE AT THE POLLS. THE PROVISIONS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN A WAY THAT GIVES EVERY ELIGIBLE VOTER AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS.
- **2.** SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 4 OF THIS ACT, INCLUSIVE, CAN BE REFERRED TO AS THE "REAL MAJORITY ACT."
- 3. THIS ACT ENTERS INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2026.

#### **SECTION 2. Definitions.**

As used in this code, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Abstract of votes cast" means a certified record of the results in each election for candidates for any office, ballot issue, or ballot question that the county clerk and recorder certified for the ballot. THE CERTIFIED RECORD SHALL INCLUDE A COUNT OF THE ELIGIBLE ELECTORS FOR EACH OFFICE.

# SECTION 3. Ballots for offices must permit voter to register opposition to all candidates.

- 1. EVERY BALLOT UPON WHICH APPEARS THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR ANY OFFICE OR FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SHALL CONTAIN FOR EACH OFFICE AN ADDITIONAL LINE EQUIVALENT TO THE LINES ON WHICH THE CANDIDATES' NAMES APPEAR AND PLACED AT THE END OF THE GROUP OF LINES CONTAINING THE NAMES OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THAT OFFICE. EACH ADDITIONAL LINE SHALL CONTAIN A SPACE IN WHICH THE VOTER MAY EXPRESS A CHOICE OF THAT LINE IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE VOTER WOULD EXPRESS A CHOICE OF A CANDIDATE, AND THE LINE SHALL READ "NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES."
- 2. ONLY VOTES CAST FOR THE NAMED CANDIDATES SHALL BE COUNTED IN DETERMINING THE WINNER OF THE NOMINATION OR ELECTION TO ANY OFFICE OR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS OR THE SELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, BUT FOR EACH OFFICE THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS ON WHICH THE ADDITIONAL LINE WAS CHOSEN SHALL BE LISTED FOLLOWING THE NAMES OF THE CANDIDATES AND THE NUMBER OF THEIR VOTES IN EVERY POSTING, ABSTRACT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION.
- **3.** EVERY SAMPLE BALLOT OR OTHER INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS PRESCRIBED OR APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL CLEARLY EXPLAIN THAT THE VOTER MAY MARK THE CHOICE OF THE LINE "NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES" ONLY IF THE VOTER HAS NOT VOTED FOR ANY CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE UNLESS THE ELECTION IS USING A RANKED VOTING METHOD.

## SECTION 4. Failure to Obtain Votes from a Majority of Eligible Electors

- 1. NO PERSON MAY BE ELECTED TO AN OFFICE UNLESS THE TOTAL VOTES CAST FOR THE OFFICE, INCLUDING THE VOTES FOR "NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES" AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT, EXCEEDS HALF THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE ELECTORS FOR THAT OFFICE.
- **2.** IF THE ABSTRACT OF VOTES CAST SHOWS THAT LESS THAN A MAJORITY OF ELIGIBLE ELECTORS SUBMITTED BALLOTS FOR AN OFFICE, THEN THAT OFFICE SHALL BE VACANT FOR THE TERM AT ISSUE.